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VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

CONTINUED.

COL. DORSEY PENTECOST¹ TO GOVERNOR PATRICK HENRY.

West Augusta, November 5th, 1776.

Excellent Sir:

Your favour of the 23d of Sept. p. Express I received the 8th of Octob'r. I have exerted every nerve of my abilities to Protect the Inhabitants of this Country and have observed the utmost frugality that the nature of my situation would admit and have been so fortunate (with the utmost Industry) to prevent the people from Emigrating, but the extent and scattered situations of this frontier together with the late hostilities committed on our inhabitants has made it necessary to augment my Guards by placing one company at the mouth of Fishing Creek, & another on the heads of Dunkard & Middle Island Creeks being the Indians old crossing place and War path which I hope your Excellency & Council will approve, especially as I am obliged to act on the Defencive and so Extensive a frontier to guard against the cruel Depredations of an Infernal

¹Col. Pentecost was the active and efficient county lieutenant of West Augusta. This county embraced the country as far as Pittsburg, then claimed by Virginia and occupied by Virginia forces. See letters from him and a note in regard to him in this Magazine, XVI, 41, 42, 48, 49, 50, and numerous references in the valuable *Revolution on the Upper Ohio*, published by the Wisconsin Historical Society. An incomplete copy (or rather abstract) of this letter is given in the work referred to, pp. 212-214.

Fishing Creek is about twenty-five miles below Wheeling, Middle Island Creek about twenty-five miles below Fishing, Dunkard Creek flows into the Monongahela in the present Greene county, Pa., Grave Creek is in Marshall county, West Va., with the town of Moundsville at its mouth. Fort Randolph was at Point Pleasant. Colonel Morgan was Zackwell Morgan, who soon afterwards was appointed county lieutenant of Monongahela county. See *Revolution on the Upper Ohio*, 230, &c.

Relentless Bandittie of Mingoos. It is with sincere concern and truly anxiety of soul that I am obliged to be a spectator to the Massacres of my neighbours and act on the Defensive only on the 9th of October two women was killed at the mouth of Fish Creek, and a Little Boy, taken prisoner, the Husbands of the women were in canoes moving home from the fort at Grave Creek one of the men upon hearing the women fired on ran ashore & Discharged his gun at one of the Indians and it is thought wounded him as the party that went to Bury the dead the next day found near where he stood three Bags of grain a hopper pr. of Mockensons a Looking Glass and a head Dress and on the Eleventh of the same month seven men on their return from the Caintuck was fired on in their Camp nearly opposite the mouth of hockhocking. One was killed on the spot & scalp'd one shot through with two Bullets of which he Died the next day, two of the men had a arm broke each: one slightly wounded the other two not hurt, when the men awakened the Indians was amongst them with their Tom-mahawks and war Clubs a scuffle insued but the Indians being prepared and having the advantage the men was obliged to run, one was cut with a Tomehock by the side of his Backbone to the hollow of his Body; another cut under the shoulder to the ribs after plundering the Camp they crossed the River one of the well men run back to fort Randolph, the other (Edward Mitchell) a near neighbour of mine sent the person who was slightly wounded up to Grave Creek and hid the wounded in an obscure place & sustained them nine days upon pappaws; the Captain of the Militia stationed at Grove Creek with 33 men of his own Company joined with an Ensign & 12 men of the regulars at Weeling went down & four days ago came up with the wounded who are likely to do well, the Captain informs me he discovered on his return a fresh raft on our side of the river but as there had been a great rain could not Discover which way they went, he also says that all the Houses below Middle Island Creek is Burnt and the corn fields Destroyed & Destroying and Colo. Morgan from high up the Monongahela was with me this day who informs me that the Scouts on that Quarter have lately Discovered the tracts of several Little parties in and about their settlements, but as the people are all

closely Forted above Cheat River he hopes they will not be able to do them much Damage, he also says that about a week ago a Couple of young men went out a hunting; one of them saw some Indian Tracts and Come in the other has not been heard of since, suppos'd to be either killed or taken prisoner; and I hourly expect to hear of more mischief being done. I am told by the Commissioners & others that a Town of Mingoos that lies high upon the Sciota that has committed those several Hostilities. If I had had ammunition and have to have proceeded I certainly would have Destroyed that Town, and exterped that nest of Rascals before now; there is a considerable Quantity of ammunition sent here by Congress for the use of this & the Westmoland Militia, I hope we shall soon be in a capacity to chastise them I am of opinion the best time to reduce them fellows to a sence of their Insignificancy would be about or a Little before Christmas as a Company of Horsemen with a few days provisions under them could ride in two days and nights from the Ohio to their Town, and it would be Impossible for them to make their escape at that Season. I think this might be effected with ease and a Tolerable degree of safety If it would have no bad effect with our friendly Indians the course is clear none of the Delawares nor Shawanese Towns lying in the way; nothing would be wanting to facilitate the measure but Prudent Economy & I think it would effectually secure peace to this part of the Country, and without something is done I am apprehensive the People will (on the frontier) be obliged to continue Forted during the Winter they live so near us they can come in to our settlements at any time if it should be thought advisable to go against them now. Horses and provisions sufficient to effect the Business can be got ready in a few days. Nothing but the Deepest anxiety for the Distress of my Country could have Induced me to have sent this Express to your Excellency nor have taken the Liberty to lay this Proposition before you which with your Excellencys goodness will be (I hope sufficient) to excuse.

Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble serv't

DORSEY PENTECOST.

To His Excellency Patrick Henry, Jun'r, Esq'r,

Williamsburg.

P. S. I have a good strong Block House & store house with a strong little cabbin Fort round them at every station on the Ohio.

MEMORIAL OF WILSON MILES CARY, 1776.

To the Hon'ble the President and the Convention of Virginia.

The Memorial of Wilson Miles Cary humbly represents. That your Memorialist received a Letter from Lord Dunmore the Governor of this Colony dated Ship William off Norfolk 14th Oct'r 1775, requiring him as the Naval officer for the lower District of James River to repair to Norfolk or Portsmouth and promising your said Memorialists Protection, and on your Memorialists offering an objection to a Compliance with the said Injunction on account of Captain Squire's very ungentle and rancourous Behaviour towards your said Memorialist his Lordships sent another Letter dated ten days after the former, renewing the Registration and promising Protection either to your Memorialist or his Deputy Col. Selden if it should be more agreeable to send him; as by the said Letters may more fully appear.

Your Memorialist begs Leave further to represent that tho' his own opinion was rather against complying with his Lordships commands yet on the advice of such of his Friends as the time limited gave him an opportunity to consult (and among them some of the officers of the army and members of the County Committee) he did send his Deputy aforesaid with the Books of Entry & clearance & necessary office papers; and for that Purpose your Memorialists hired a Boat and two Slaves of Mr. John Jones who suspicious of the Event insisted on an Indemnification from your said Memorialist which he readily agreed to under Faith in the assurance contained in the Fore-said Letters, Notwithstanding which as soon as Col. Selden had arrived at Norfolk the said Boat and Hands were perfidiously seized and detain'd by his Lordships and have never since been returned.

Your Memorialists prays therefore that out of such of the effects of the said Lord Dunmore as are within this Colony, he

may be allowed to receive an Indemnity in such manner as this Hon'ble House may judge reasonable.

[Endorsement]

Col. Cary. Ref'd to Prop'ns reasonable & Mem'st has a claim ag'st Estate of Lord Dunmore £240.

THE HUMBLE REMONSTRANCE¹ OF THE CAPTAINS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, [1785].

Please your excellency & the honourable Council.

The necessity we are under of troubling your excellency & honourable board at this time gives us much concern: but deliberating on a late nomination of Field officers for this County, effected with design by the County Lieutenant to strengthen his interest; to promote his operations which are pursued with unrestrained measures; to misguide the people & allure them at every Hazard, to attempt an immediate separation from the State of Virginia. We cannot therefore set still silent spectators of so much artifice, injustice and oppression as the nominations is intended to produce. For instance, artful in having a Majority of the Court favourers of his proceedings for a new state. Unjust in preferring some men in the nomination who never held commissions in the County, thereby depriving others in commission equal in abilities of a progressive right claimed by every military order of men at the same time leaving out officers now in possession of their commissions who we think (according to his Excellencies late proclamation continuing all old officers in commission) are obliged to act and finally oppressive to all the inhabitants of Clinch an entire frontier of the Country; being without a Field Officer & with design to derange the former Battalions & compel those people to cross that rugged mountain leaving their Families exposed to a savage

¹ While this paper appears, without date, among those of 1776, its position is certainly an accident. The true date should be 1785 or 1786, at the time that Col. Arthur Campbell was endeavoring to secure the secession of Washington county from Virginia and its incorporation into the new State of Frankland. See Summers' *Southwest Virginia*, 391-419.

enemy to perform battalion duty on Holstein. These recited grievances which we conceive highly repugnant to the Welfare of this County, we humbly hope may be sufficient to claim the earliest attention & interposition of your honourable Board; to the equity of rank amongst the officers & convenience & safety of the County in General.

And while we trouble you sir & the honourable Council on the present occasion we cannot omit to observe that for three years past partiality in the present County Lieutenant by advancement of Favourites unjustly in the County; hath prevented several valuable officers holding commissions under him; and in fact their services must be lost to the County, till an enquiry can be had & Justice restored in a grievance if not in the power of the Executive heretofore to remedy We are now prone to hope may be removed: either during suspension of the late militia act or when that may take place under the present divided sense of the people will it not be consistent with the powers of the honourable Executive? to direct a board of officers from the neighbouring Counties to adjust all disputes of rank within this County.

We humbly hope sir this representation which is intended to preserve justice & effect as well the convenience of Clinch inhabitants as other parts of the County may meet the timely meditation of your honourable board, and we whose names are hereunto annexed will ever pray.

H. Smith, Capt.
 And. Cowan, Capt.
 Robt. ———, Capt.
 David Ward, Capt.
 John Frazier, Capt.
 John Jamison, Capt.
 Andrew Kennan, Capt.
 Aaron Lewis, Colo.
 Wm. Tate, Lt. Colo.
 Mich'l Montgomery,
 2d.
 Jas. Desert, Colo.
 Jas. Ferguson.

Thos. Drice, Capt.
 John Davis, Capt.
 John Kinkhead, Capt.
 Joseph Cole, Capt.
 Wm. Neill, Capt.
 Arthur Bowen, Capt.
 Wm. Brinston.
 Jas. Ferguson,
 Arthur Bowen,
 Wm. Neill.
 Robt. Craig, Lt. Colo.

[Endorsement]

A Remonstrance f'om certain Militia officers of Washington County.

PETITION OF JOHN GOODRICH, SR.³ [1776].

To the Honourable Committee of Enquiry.

The Petition of John Goodrich Sen'r Humbly sheweth your Petitioner hath been Confined & Loaded with heavy Irons sixteen Days & hopes any Evidence against him is by this time come to Town. Your Petitioner is anxious to be heard as he may clear himself of the many false aspertions Laid to his Charge by Envious Informations and Representations he is Conscious that he has acted a Part (when fully Inquired into) as Little offensive to his Country as any man in his situation could and believe me Gentlemen I am Happy (The confinement & Damn'd Irons Excepted) that I have opportunity of Convincing my Country men that the many things I am accused of are notoriously False.

Gentlemen at the beginning of these troubles I had something to lose that Property is now nearly Compleated. I took a warm & Early part which Involved me in Lord Dunmore's Hands, I am by this means now in your hands or in other words Discharged from the Obligation, I was bound to him In. I Earnestly Intreat your speedy admitting me to a Hearing as I may be Fixed in my situation and your Petitioner as in Duty Bound shall Pray &c.

CHARGE AGAINST JOSHUA HOPKINS FOR ASSISTING DUNMORE,
1776.

Capt. William Davies deposes that about 6 or 8 weeks before Joshua Hopkins was apprehended the Commanding officer at Kemp's was informed that he was then gone with provisions to Lord Dunmore, but it was too late to detect him in the fact the commanding officer desired his informer to watch for his going

³ See this Magazine, XV, 161, &c.

again and give immediate information of it. Hopkins in the mean time made two applications to the deponent for leave to go on board under pretense of settling an account with Neil Jamison which was refused. In a short time after information was given that Hopkins had gone down with provisions, to Lord Dunmore upon which a party was sent who lay in wait for him two nights and a day and about two o'clock in the morning did at length detect him coming from the fleet with Simon Whitehurst and a negroe. Simon Whitehurst being separately examined in the presence of this deponent did declare that Hopkins had been down to the fleet with his son that he left his son there who was to go into Lord Dunmore's services. The negro it appeared had been threatened by Hopkins (his Master) with death if he made any discovery, and did in the deponents presence being separately examined, confirm what was said by Whitehurst and added that Hopkins took his son to Lord Dunmore and asked him how he liked him upon which Lord Dunmore directed him to enlist with Capt. Saunders.

The deponent further says that the political character of the prisoner is uncommonly bad in his County and that the people in general were very glad that he was apprehended.

The deponent also further declares that the prisoner was taken when the troops first marched to Norfolk as he was then strongly suspected of inimical practices.

And further this deponent saith not.

WILLIAM DAVIS.

[Endorsement]

Davie's
Dep'o.
Hopkin's.

RECOMMENDATION OF CLAIBORNE LAWSON,⁴ 1776.

We the subscribers do hereby recommend Mr. Claiborne Lawson as a vigilant active officer and think him worthy of promotion. We have had an opportunity of observing his conduct

⁴Claiborne Lawson was Ensign, 1st Virginia, 7th October, 1775; 1st Lieutenant, 2d December, 1776; Captain, 18th October, 1777, and was on service in 1781.

during our continuance at Princess Anne and therefore recommend him from certain knowledge.

Chas. Scott,
 Frank Eppes,
 Jno. Markham,
 William Davies,
 Willis Wilson,
 Wm. Cunningham,
 Robert Ballard,
 Jno. Fleming,
 Wm. Lewis,
 Joseph Scott,
 Tearlton Woodson,
 Edw. Garland.

PETITION OF WILLIAM CHRISTIAN, WILLIAM PRESTON AND
 ARTHUR CAMPBELL IN REGARD TO THEIR SERVICES
 IN DUNMORES WAR.

To the honourable the President and the gentlemen of the
 Convention.

The Memorial of William Christian in behalf of himself &
 Wm. Preston and Arthur Campbell Esquires of the County of
 Fincastle.

Humbly Sheweth—

That in the month of May 1774 your Memorialists being on
 the Assembly was advised by Lord Dunmore to return home to
 the County of Fincastle and use his best endeavours to prevent
 the flight of the inhabitants from the approach of an Indian
 War then just about to break out on the Frontiers, to give an
 assurance to the people that the war should be carried into the
 enemies country, and to advise Wm. Preston Esq'r Lieut. of
 County to take proper steps for its defence. That upon return-
 ing home your Memorialists found the inhabitants in great
 consternation which increased daily so that numbers fled from
 their homes and it was feared great part of the county would
 be evacuated. That in order to determine what was best to be
 done, a council of officers was held on the 25th of June when it
 was resolved amongst other things that your Memorialist who

was then a Lieut Colo. should march with a body of men to the Frontier of Clinch which he immediately did & continued in actual service about three weeks when it appeared an expedition against the Indian Towns was resolved on and altho' he was not in the field again until the 12th of August when he was appointed to take command of the Fincastle Troops for the expedition yet during the intermediate time he was chiefly employed in promoting the service so as to neglect his own private affairs.

That William Preston Esquire on your Memorialist delivering the message above mentioned from Lord Dunmore did immediately write to his officers directing them how to conduct themselves on the alarming occasion That from thence forward to the last of October he was chiefly employed in the service of the Country so as not to be able to pay attention to his own affairs Altho' his own plantation was considered as his home he was a considerable part of his time abroad in the County on the business of the public: and when at home where he was induced to keep his family at a dangerous pass for the encouragement of others to make a stand, his house was the resort of multitudes who were troublesome & expensive in consequence of the frequent applications and intelligence from different parts of the County which required answers and instructions. That the said Wm. Preston from the time of the expeditions being set on foot to the 12th of August was expected to go on the same at which time or thereabouts Lord Dunmore's letter to Colo. Lewis appeared setting forth that the said Wm. Preston should not march because he could not spare him from the Frontiers. That afterwards as well as before he continued to exert himself for promoting the expedition as well as taking care of the Frontiers so far that he often made himself liable for sums of money and indeed often had to do the duty of a contractor as well as that of an officer.

That Arthur Campbell Esq'r was the eldest captain on Holston's river & Clinch which constitutes one half of the County and of course had much trouble and spent much of his time in the service of the Frontiers of that part from the breaking out of the War until sometime early in the month of August

when he was appointed a Major of the Militia. That from his situation & usefulness as an officer he was ordered to take the immediate charge of that part of the County which from its extent was impracticable for the Lieut. of the County to inspect as minutely as was necessary into the conduct of the officers soldiers & scoutts & to give the requisite orders from time to time. That he did all these matters with great care & ability until some time in November, and your Memorialist conceives that the services of the said Arthur Campbell Esq'r had very beneficial effects as he exerted himself in an uncommon manner for the countys interest. Your Memorialists for these reasons & many more which might be adduced begs leave to submit his case & that of the above Gentlemen to this hon'ble house and that he & they may receive such compensation as in the wisdom of the house is judged adequate to their services & in duty bound shall pray &c.

[Endorsement]

Col. Christians Memorial referred to Com. of Prop'ns & Grievances.

Reported. 3 weeks Christian as Lieut: Colo., rest rejected.

CONFESSION OF JOHN GOODRICH, 1776.

John Goodrich confessed that he was sent by Lord Dunmore as a pilot to Capt. Wright to bring him into Ocrecock to get provisions—provisions being very scarce aboard—that he was with Ruth and Stevens as Pilots on Board the Otter man of War to carry her to Baltimore—that he signed the Test and association—that he has rum, sugar and Dry Goods on board and with Lord Dunmore's Fleet. Lord Dunmore Discharged him from an act which his Counsel deemed worthy of death and that he did not chuse to disoblige Lord Dunmore—that he hath three Boats in the Service of Lord Dunmore—that he hath one negroe on board when taken that the orders given by Lord Dunmore was to seize all vessels loaded with provisions and carry them to his Fleet—that there was on board Capt. Scott 152 Blls. of Gun Powder and 65 Stand of arms, that there was some Powder on board the

Phila Vessel sent by the congress which vessels were taken by Capt. Wright that there is at present 132 Sail of vessel in Lord Dunmore's Fleet—that General Clinton is at Cape Fear—that 15000 Russians were expected in, that Lord Dunmore hath about 3 or 400 Negroes—that it was reported Gen'l Clinton has about 700 Troops—Capt. Adderly was taken by Capt. Wright—had on board pork, corn, Beeswax & staves that Lord Dunmore never ordered him to take up arms that he thinks himself bound to obey Lord Dunmore's orders as his property is at stake—that he has an order from the Committee of Safety of Virginia permitting him to remove with his Family to Bermuda that he hath heard Lord Dunmore and the Commodore say that as soon as Independence was declared they would burn all the Towns on the Sea Coast.

That Capt. Wright hath orders to tend at the Bar to seize Vessels—that he believes he is there at this time That there is scarce a day but what Lord Dunmore is supplied with Provisions from the Country—That letters are frequently sent on board his Lordship—That 4 men from Black River came on board & brought a fine parcel of Lambs—That Lord Dunmore never proposed anything that was base to him to undertake. Has 2 Schooners & 2 Sloops [that has his Goods on Board] In Lord Dunmore's Fleet—That he hath about 20 negroes at his plantation in the Isle of White, and about a dozen in his Vessels. That Gen'l Clinton sailed from Hampton Road & intended to land his Forces at Cape Fear and march thro' No. Carolina & reduce them to obedience & March down to Suffolk and join Lord Dunmore at Suffolk in one month's time—That he has two Brigs in the West Indies which he expects in with rum. A copy from the Original taken in No. Carolina & read before the Com'm'ee of privileges in presence of Goodrich who did not deny any part thereof.

ED'M. PENDLETON,
Clk. to Com. on privileges.

[Endorsement]

Jno. Goodrich's
Confession.

PETITION⁵ OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF PRINCESS ANNE
COUNTY, 1776, IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSED REMOVAL
OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT SECTION.

To the Hon'ble the Committee of Safety for the Colony of Virginia.

Gentlemen

We the chairman and committee of the County of Princess Anne in behalf of ourselves and the Inhabitants of this County beg leave to address your Hon'ble Board and hope for your attention to this our Humble Petition.

The consternation and surprize we were in on hearing of your Determination to remove the Inhabitants of Norfolk and Princess Anne Counties cannot be hardly equalled by anything but by the great dejection of the Inhabitants and the miseries and Distresses which we humbly apprehend will attend and await on such a measure. The Reasons why your Hon'ble Board have entered into such a determination you have been pleased to communicate and say that it is from several Letters from the Secretary of State lately intercepted and other papers and from your being informed repeatedly upon oath from Persons who have escaped from the Fleet of a constant Intercourse being kept up between the Inhabitants on the Norfolk side who furnish the

⁵On May 3, 1776, the General Committee of Safety having considered this petition, and consulted Major-General Charles Lee, appointed a committee composed of Wm. Robinson, Thos. Reynolds Walker, Thos. Old, John Thorougood, James Henly, Erasmus Haynes, and Wm. Wishart, Gentlemen who should make inquiry into the conduct and character of the citizens of Princess Anne, and report to Major-General Lee, or to the commanding officer of Suffolk, who should permit those friendly to the American cause, or neutral, to remain peaceably at home, but to remove their live stock. All enemies of America, together with their families and effects, should be compelled to remove according to the former resolution. Princess Anne and Norfolk counties, from their extensive coast lines, were exceedingly difficult to defend from the attacks of an enemy who controlled Chesapeake Bay. To this difficulty was added the fact that many of the people of the two counties were not friendly to the American cause. As a measure of defence the Virginia authorities had issued the very drastic order that the whole population should be removed.

enemy with provisions and give Intelligence of all your measures. That some in and about Norfolk and Tanners Creek have not manifested such good designs for the American Cause as we could wish and hope for we most sincerely lament and that there has been too free an Intercourse between them and the Ministerial Fleet we must agree with your Hon'ble Board (from the general opinion of us and the Inhabitants of this County) there is too great reason for, but we will venture to affirm that from any of the Inhabitants of this County except in one Instance, and that of a man who was always suspected and reputed as inimical to the common Cause, that there has not been hardly one or any Instance of the Inhabitants furnishing the Fleet at Norfolk with Provision, or keeping up an intercourse of any kind and that as to the inimical Disposition of many of the Inhabitants of this County, we beg leave to assure you that we who have lived and bred up with them and have heard their Sentiments on this unhappy Dispute and have been witness of their conduct think that there are as few in this County as in any part of the Colony and are as willing to join in any measure for the advancement of the American Cause, but such is our unhappy Fate that from the manoeuvres of Lord Dunmore in this County when it was almost in a defenceless state that we have thought in general Inimical, and has been a great means of our being grossly misrepresented. As to our situation we humbly conceive that many Counties in the Colony are from the Geography of them as much exposed as we are, and that an Enemy could effect Landing with much greater Facility and be more in the heart of the Country as we are bounded on the Bay of Chesapeake and the Sea, where with difficulty Boats can Land in the most calm weather. If the Determination of your Hon'ble Board can be relaxed in any degree with Safety to the whole Colony we are certain from the Humanity that breathes through the whole of it and the Letter from the President to the Gent'n appointed to carry it into Execution that you will with the utmost Chearfulness adopt it.

That this can be done we beg leave to inform you. We are of opinion that to lay off the County in so many Divisions as proper persons appointed may think proper for the most speedy removal of the live stock in the County, that upon the arrival of an Enemy it may be effected within the space of forty eight

hours the farthest Part of the County being about five & thirty miles to the Great Bridge, and about seventeen from a place called the North Landing the head of the North River which is about twenty yards wide over which there might be a floating stage laid and the Landing place is but a mile from the main Road that leads to the Great Bridge, lying eight miles to the Southward of it and over the limits you have prescribed from which Landing place there is already a foot way, and might be made in sufficient order within three Days with forty Hands for ten men to go abreast and about two miles from thence and six from Great Bridge at the Head of the Southern Branch there is a pass which might be made sufficient within a week or less for any number of men to pass it being only swampy Ground.

As to our slaves, We have but few and when Lord Dunmore took possession of the County and continued in it several Days, there was but about the number of fifteen or Twenty who joined him; tho' he held out the most promising Terms which we attribute to the smallness of their number, and chiefly managing them ourselves and by that means attending to the good usage of them and we assure your Hon'ble Board that from the General detestation of the slaves in the County to Lord Dunmore's measures, that we apprehend trible the number would fly from him than what would join him; and tho' till lately might have gone to him; whenever they thought proper we had few or no Instances of it. This being the case we humbly hope that the reasons for our Removal if not altogether are in some degree answered.

Having the greatest confidence in your good Intentions to protect all the Inhabitants of this Colony, as far as is consistent with the safety of the whole. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Resolution of the Inhabitants and the live stock of this Country being removed, may be altogether for the reasons we have advanced or in part be rescinded.

And your Petitioners shall pray &c.

WM. ROBINSON, Chairm'n.

[Endorsement]

Princess Anne Comm'ee their Petition.

PETITION OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF PRINCESS ANNE AND
NORFOLK COUNTIES, 1776.

To the Honourable the Convention of Virginia now sitting in
the City of Williamsburg.

The Petition of sundry Inhabitants of Princess Anne and Norfolk Counties humbly sheweth that your Petitioners have from the Commencement of the present unhappy Disputes between the British Parliament & Colonies, been uniformly active in promoting those Measures which have at different Times been recommended by the Congress & Convention for the Preservation & Defence of our native Rights & Liberties. In consequence of this Conduct many of us have of late been reduced to the cruel Necessity of abandoning our aged Parents our Wives our children & Families and leaving them to the mercy of insidious Neighbours, the lawless plundering Soldier & the more savage Slave: Our Plantations have been ravaged, our wives & Children stripped almost nakedness, our very Bed-Chamber invaded, at the Silent Hour of Midnight, by Ruffians with drawn Daggers & Bayonets; our Houses not only robbed of Plate, Specie & every Thing valuable but wantonly reduced by Fire to Ashes; our Persons treated with every Indignity that elated Insolence & Cruelty could suggest, some of us dragged into confinement where many of our Friends & associates still languish under the Hands of oppression. All this however horrid & shocking to Humanity your Petitioners can make appear to be no aggravation, but a just & candid Representation of their Grievances. We have also to lament that the tardy equivocal conduct of some lukewarm friends encouraged Lord Dunmore to begin those Depredations which with the assistance of our concealed as well as open & armed Enemies he continued to commit so long with Impunity. Your Petitioners would farther represent to your honourable Assembly that notwithstanding their present State of Safety whilst our Troops Keep Possession of this country the probability of their being dislodged presents such a dreadful Prospect of the Renewal of former or Exercise of Superior Cruelties that we can not help being apprehensive of & endeavouring to guard against such calamities in future we would likewise humbly beg Leave to inform your Honours that we apprehend the number of friends to their Country is much inferiour to

its Enemies, Among the Leaders of the People in these two Counties and that we have every Thing to fear from those who have been busy in spiritting up the People as well as those who have borne Arms against us,

Whenever they shall have it in their Power:—That the Friends to the cause being obliged to abandon their Homes & remove from the scene of Action puts it out of their Power to bear Testimony against a number of Delinquents: That those who continued at Home have for the most Part confined themselves within Doors to avoid the Insults that were hourly offered to every suspected friend to America, by which means the Behaviour of many of our Enemies particularly those who acted behind the curtain of which there are not a few, cannot immediately be brought to Sight, your Petitioners would therefore humbly pray that some Persons may be appointed to make strict search into the conduct of those who are thus suspected, that the Court of Enquiry may be furnished with full and proper Information. Your Petitioners would further pray that those who have been active in spiritting up the People, as well as those who have borne arms against us, be removed as soon as may be to some distant Part of the Colony or otherwise according to your superior wisdom, So disposed of, as to prevent them from doing farther mischief; and though your Petitioners would not wish to alter your lenient & merciful Determination respecting the Slaves who bore arms against us, we by no means think ourselves safe even at present, while they are suffered to go at large we would therefore humbly & earnestly beg that they may be confined until an opportunity offers to transport them to some of the West India Islands or elsewhere and your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c.

Thomas Newton Sen'r,
 Anthony Walke Jun'r,
 John Ramsay,
 John Reade,
 Matthew Godfrey,
 John Wilson,
 James Marsden,
 Edward Archer,
 Lem'l Thorowgood,
 Christopher Calvert.

[Endorsement]
 Referred to Committee of Safety.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]